

It is claimed:

1. A livestock transport comprising:

a loading floor;

a cargo floor elevated above the loading floor;

a ramp assembly hinge attached proximate the cargo floor; and

a ramp assembly connected to the cargo floor and configured for pivotal movement about the ramp assembly hinge from a raised position to a lowered position in closer proximity with the loading floor, the ramp assembly having a ramp floor and a cleaning chute.

2. The livestock transport of claim 1, wherein the ramp assembly is substantially rectangular, and wherein the cleaning chute is located between the ramp floor and the ramp assembly hinge.

3. The livestock transport of claim 2, wherein the ramp floor and cleaning chute form an angled profile.

4. The livestock transport of claim 1, wherein the ramp floor and cleaning chute form an angle of at least 90°.

5. The livestock transport of claim 1, wherein the ramp floor includes at least one raised ridge that traverses the ramp floor.

6. The livestock transport of claim 1, wherein the ramp assembly further comprises a ramp lever located below the ramp assembly hinge, and wherein the pivotal movement of the ramp assembly is effected by application of force to the ramp lever.

5 7. The livestock transport of claim 5, wherein the force applied to the ramp assembly is provided by a hydraulic cylinder.

8. The livestock transport of claim 1, wherein the pivotal movement of the ramp assembly is controlled through use of a remote control.

10 9. The livestock trailer of claim 1, further comprising:
a sidewall; and
a divider curtain attached to the sidewall.

15 10. The livestock transport of claim 9, wherein the divider curtain is retractable.

20 11. The livestock trailer of claim 1, wherein the ramp floor comprises:
a ramp floor hinge;
a first portion attached to the ramp floor hinge; and
a second portion attached to the ramp floor hinge;
wherein the first and second portions are configured for folding operation.

12. The livestock transport of claim 11, further comprising a ramp support assembly, wherein the ramp assembly is supported by the ramp support assembly when lowered from the raised position.

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13. The livestock transport of claim 12, wherein the ramp support assembly is configured for selective deployment.

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14. A livestock transport comprising:

a cargo portion;

a loading portion; and

means for permitting the movement of livestock from the loading portion to the cargo

5 portion.

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15. An apparatus for moving livestock from a lower level to an upper level, the apparatus comprising:

a ramp assembly hinge attached proximate the upper level; and

a ramp assembly connected to the ramp assembly hinge and configured for pivotal

movement about the ramp assembly hinge from a raised position to a lowered position in closer proximity with the lower level, the ramp assembly having a ramp floor; and a cleaning chute.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ramp assembly is substantially rectangular, and wherein the ramp floor is adjacent and connected to the cleaning chute and the cleaning chute is attached to the ramp assembly hinge.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the connection between the ramp floor and cleaning chute forms an angled profile.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the connection between the ramp floor and cleaning chute forms an angled profile having an angle not less than 90°.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ramp floor includes at least one raised ridge that traverses the ramp floor.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ramp assembly further comprises a ramp

lever located below the ramp assembly hinge, and wherein the pivotal movement of the ramp assembly is effected by application of force to the ramp lever.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the force applied to the ramp lever is provided
5 by a hydraulic cylinder.

22. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the pivotal movement of the ramp assembly is controlled through use of a remote control.

10 23. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ramp floor comprises:
a ramp floor hinge;
a first portion attached to the ramp floor hinge;
a second portion attached to the ramp floor hinge; and
wherein the first and second portions are configured for folding operation.

15 24. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a ramp support assembly, wherein the ramp assembly is supported by the ramp support assembly when lowered from the raised position.

20 25. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a ramp support assembly, wherein the ramp assembly is supported by the ramp support assembly when lowered from the raised position.

26. A method for loading livestock from the ground to a transport and unloading the livestock from the transport, wherein the transport includes a loading floor, a cargo floor, a first sidewall and a second sidewall, the method comprising the following steps:

- (A) lowering a ramp assembly from a raised position to a lowered position in contact with the loading floor;
- (B) forcing the livestock from the ground directly onto the loading floor;
- (C) directing the livestock from the loading floor up the ramp assembly;
- (D) directing the livestock from the ramp assembly into the cargo portion;
- (E) raising the ramp assembly;
- (F) moving the livestock transport to the elevated dock;
- (G) deploying a ramp support assembly;
- (H) lowering the ramp assembly; and
- (I) unloading the livestock to the elevated dock across the ramp assembly.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the transport further includes a first sidewall and a second sidewall, and wherein the method further comprises the additional step of:

extending a divider curtain across a portion of the transport prior to step B, wherein the divider curtain is attached to the first sidewall between the loading floor and the cargo floor.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein step (D) of the method further comprises: directing the livestock between the extended divider curtain and the second sidewall.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the ramp assembly comprises a cleaning chute,
and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(J) cleaning the ramp assembly by raising the ramp assembly.

5 30. The method of claim 26, wherein the ramp assembly is raised through use of a
remote control.

31. The method of claim 26, wherein the ramp assembly is lowered until it is
supported by a ramp support assembly.

10 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the ramp assembly includes a ramp hinge and
wherein the ramp assembly is unfolded.